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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 13th meeting, on 7 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 18)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting and advancing the development pillar of the Organization, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their linkages at the national and global levels, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. It was recognized that the Commission played a vital role in the region and that that role should be supported

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and strengthened. It was noted that the Commission carried out important normative and analytical work in formulating macroeconomic policies — fiscal, monetary and financial — geared towards mobilizing domestic and external resources in line with the Goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

4. Delegations expressed the view that the programme pinpointed accurately the challenges faced by the region and that it remained of concern that the region was still one of the most unequal in the attainment of development goals among countries of the region. Emphasis was made on the need to narrow the economic gaps between countries in the region.

5. The comment was made that education remained a paradigm for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and it was requested that the Commission illustrate how the programme reflected efforts in supporting the improvement and advancement of education in the region and how the Commission addressed the problem of illiteracy.

6. Clarifications were sought on the increasing demands from member States for analysis and policy proposals to tackle new challenges for macroeconomic policymaking within the framework and targets of the 2030 Agenda (para. 18.6), and on which institutional arrangements were in place to reach the expected coordination level (para. 18.15).

7. As regards the proposed merging of subprogrammes 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, and 4, Financing for development, previously presented in the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 as separate subprogrammes, the view was expressed that that could curtail the area of financing for development. Accordingly, information was sought on how the integration of the two subprogrammes would help to address the issues.

8. Under subprogramme 10, Statistics, clarification was sought concerning the linkages between the proposed expected accomplishment (b) and its indicator of achievement (i), and the view was expressed that the proposed indicator seemed too narrow to reflect the expected accomplishment.

9. The view was expressed that there existed linkages between subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperatio , and subprogramme 13, Support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations, particularly the emphasis made on integration and regional cooperation and the means used by countries of the region to ensure that they became a successful part of the global economy. Delegations welcomed the efforts by the Commission in supporting and advancing regional coordination, and the view was expressed that interregional cooperation should be reflected more clearly across the Programme. Noting the work of the Commission with integration mechanisms in the region, clarification was sought on how the Commission ensured such cooperation, including whether regular meetings between the Commission and such mechanisms were held.

10. Delegations noted the importance of the activities carried out by the Commission in the subregions, particularly under subprogramme 11, Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico. In that connection, it was recognized that the subregion was rather diverse, and clarifications were sought as to what the Commission did to reflect those diverging realities on the ground. Information was sought on whether Commission documents

were issued in different languages to take into account the language specificity of member states of the region. As regards the programmatic elements of the subprogramme, it was suggested that elements of the strategic framework should be reviewed further to enhance the link between the objective and the expected accomplishments.

11. Note was taken of the conclusions of the plenary of the Commission, which had recently convened its thirty-sixth biennial session at the ministerial level in Mexico City, including changes requested to paragraph 18.12 of the overall orientation of the programme. In that connection, the view was expressed that said change should be reflected in the final version of the approved programme.

12. Delegations enquired about the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development during the thirty-sixth biennial session of the Commission, including whether the outcome would lead to a request for additional resources upon approval of the resolution by the Economic and Social Council. In that connection, the comment was made that, in general, the establishment of new entities should be carried out within existing resources approved for the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations should

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with established procedures.**

14. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 18.12

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"In that regard, ECLAC advocates a single universal sustainable development agenda, with equality at its core."